

Section I (Amendments to the Claims)

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 15 as set out in the following listing of the claims of the application.

1. (Currently amended) A thermal management system for cooling of a high-capacity battery including a longitudinally extending top face having terminals thereon, said thermal management system comprising a plate member overlying the entire top face of the battery and parallelly aligned with said top face to form a gap therebetween, the gap at an outer side edge thereof defining a gap opening extending continuously along the full longitudinal extent of said top face, between the plate member and the top face of the battery, with ~~[[a]] said gap opening along side edges of the plate member~~ communicating with an ambient environment of the thermal management system, said plate member including at least one opening therein, wherein each plate member opening has a cylindrical collar disposed therein, with a downdraft fan mounted in the collar, and constructed and arranged to direct cooling gas from said ambient environment directly downwardly onto ~~on~~ the top face of the high-capacity battery during at least one of (a) fast charging of the battery, and (b) use of the battery generating heat, ~~and to discharge so that~~ the cooling gas, ~~after contact with~~ contacting the top face of the battery ~~[[,]] flows laterally outwardly across the top face of the battery and is laterally discharged through said gap opening along side edges of the plate member into the ambient environment.~~
2. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 1, further comprising a terminal and strap cover mountable on a pair of strapped terminals on said top face of the battery to cover the terminal and strap connected thereto, said cover including a main top member and a circumscribing sidewall joined to the main top member, wherein the main top member has cooling gas flow openings therein, and the circumscribing sidewall includes side portions and end portions, wherein said side portions and end portions have cooling gas flow openings therein.

3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Previously presented) The thermal management system of claim 1, further comprising thermal monitoring circuitry arranged to monitor battery temperature and to actuate the downdraft fan(s) when battery temperature rises above a predetermined set point value.
6. (Previously presented) The thermal management system of claim 5, wherein said thermal monitoring circuitry comprises a monitoring device selected from the group consisting of thermocouples, thermistors, and thermostats.
7. (Previously presented) The thermal management system of claim 5, wherein said thermal monitoring circuitry comprises switches for actuating the downdraft fan(s).
8. (Previously presented) The thermal management system of claim 1, further comprising load-sensing circuitry arranged to monitor battery load and to actuate the downdraft fan(s) when the battery is being discharged in use.
9. (Previously presented) The thermal management system of claim 1, further comprising current-draw monitoring circuitry arranged to monitor battery current draw and to actuate the downdraft fan(s) when the battery is being discharged in use.
10. (Currently amended) The thermal management system of claim 1, comprising multiple openings in said plate member, wherein each opening in the plate member has a cylindrical collar disposed in the opening and said downdraft fan is interiorly mounted in said cylindrical collar.
11. (Previously presented) The thermal management system of claim 10, further comprising a protective grate member mounted at the top open end of the cylindrical collar and overlying the downdraft fan mounted therein.

12. (Cancelled).
13. (Previously presented) The thermal management system of claim 1, wherein the plate member overlying the high-capacity battery is hinged at one end thereof.
14. (Previously presented) The thermal management system of claim 1, comprising multiple downdraft fans mounted at corresponding openings in said plate member.
15. (Currently amended) A vehicle adapted to be powered by a high-capacity battery including a top face having terminals thereon, said vehicle comprising a thermal management system as claimed in claim 1 arranged for cooling of said battery, ~~said thermal management system comprising a plate member overlying and parallelly aligned with said top face to form a gap therebetween, with a gap opening along side edges of the plate member communicating with an ambient environment of the thermal management system, said plate member including at least one opening therein, wherein each plate member opening has disposed therein a downdraft fan, constructed and arranged to direct cooling gas from said ambient environment directly on the top face of the high capacity battery during at least one of (a) fast charging of the battery, and (b) use of the battery generating heat, and to discharge the cooling gas, through said gap opening along side edges of the plate member.~~
16. (Previously presented) The vehicle of claim 15, wherein the battery comprises an array of high-capacity batteries wherein successive high-capacity batteries are arranged in abutting relationship to one another.
17. (Previously presented) The vehicle of claim 15, wherein the battery is positioned in a battery compartment below a seat of the vehicle.
18. (Cancelled).
19. (Previously presented) The vehicle of claim 15, comprising a forklift vehicle.

20.-33. (Cancelled).

- 34. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 2, wherein said openings along end portions and medial portions of the circumscribing wall of said terminal and strap cover comprise vertically extending slot openings.
- 35. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 34, wherein the vertically extending slot openings are defined by a series of laterally spaced-apart vertical ribs extending between the main top member and a circumscribing edge member at the lower end of the circumscribing wall.
- 36. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 35, wherein the array of openings in the main top member comprise circular openings.
- 37. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 36, wherein the array of openings in the main top member further comprise openings, at respective ends of the main top member, of elongate form with rounded extremities.
- 38. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 37, wherein elongate form openings are each generally aligned with an adjacent edge surface of the main top member.
- 39. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 2, wherein said openings along end portions and medial portions of the circumscribing wall comprise slotted and slatted openings.
- 40. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 2, wherein the circumscribing wall includes successive vertically spaced-apart slats, wherein each of adjacent slats defines therebetween a rectangular opening.

41. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 40, wherein the openings on the main top member comprise circular openings.
42. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 2, wherein the circumscribing wall includes laterally spaced-apart vertically extending spar elements having vertically spaced-apart slats extending therebetween to form slotted and slatted openings.
43. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 2, wherein spar elements are laterally spaced apart around the full circumferential extent of the circumscribing wall to form a corresponding series of arrays of slotted and slatted openings.
44. (Withdrawn) The thermal management system of claim 2, further comprising on respective end portions of the circumscribing wall vertically extending, laterally spaced-apart ribs for press-fit mounting of the cover on battery terminals.